

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN ASEAN DEL REACTIONS

1. GENERAL REACTION GLEANED FROM MEMBERS INDONESIAL DEL WAS THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE ABOUT AS EXPECTED. FURTHER QUESTIONING INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT GOI DEL EXPECTATIONS HAD NOT, IN FACT, BEEN VERY HIGH. BUT THEY WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY HIGH LEVEL USG PARTICIPATION AND ATTENTION. FOREIGN OFFICE DIRGEN DARUSMAN TOLD US FRIDAY (BEFORE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON COMMON FUND AT PRESS CONFERENCE) THAT MEETING WAS DEFINITELY WORTHWHILE. IN HIS SEMI-CYNICAL STYLE, DARUSMAN CHARACTERIZED IT AS "NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC SIDE, BUT A DEFINITE PLUS ON THE POLITICAL SIDE". SEVERAL DELEGATES COMMENTED AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE ON THEIR SATISFACTION WITH SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON COMMON FUND. HOWEVER, INDONESIAN REPS (LIKE MALAYSIA) WERE RESERVED ON TIMING AND LEVEL OF FUTURE MEETING.

2. ECONMIN WIDJOJO'S ONLY CONTRIBUTION DURING PLENARY WAS

TO PRESENT ASEAN POSITION ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. HE CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED HIS REMARKS FROM THE PREPARED TEXT (NOT YET AVAILABLE). FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON THE COMMON FUND, WIDJOJO REPORTEDLY REMARKED TO HIS ASSOCIATES "THAT ONE STATEMENT IS WORTH THE WHOLE TRIP". ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOTABLY SILENT DURING THE ACTUAL MEETINGS HE AND PRAWIRO HAD A SERIES OF VALUABLE SMALL GROUP SESSIONS IN WHICH WIDJOJO WAS, AS USUAL, PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE. BROOKINGS HELD A LUNCH IN HIS HONOR, AN INDO-NESIAN EMBASSY BREAKFAST MEETING RESTORED MOMENTUM TO PL-480 TITLE III NEGOTIATIONS AND THERE WERE TWO MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY COOPER. WIDJOJO AND PRAWIRO WERE ALSO PLEASED TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS INDONESIAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH US OFFICIALS SUCH AS SECRETARIES BERGLAND AND KREPS AT OSTENSIBLE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. WIDJOJO WAS FEATURED SPEAKER WITH US BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK. WIDJOJO THEN DEPARTED U.S. FOR EUROPE WHILE PRAWIRO AND OTHERS WENT ON TO W. COAST FOR BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC CONTACTS. THUS, ASEAN MEETING PROVIDED UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO SERVE ASEAN AND INDONESIA AT SAME TIME.

3. FOLLOW-UP: MAINTAINING A MOMENTUM IN US-ASEAN RELATIONS WILL REQUIRE THE ON-GOING PRIORITY ATTENTION OF THE DEPT AND POSTS (INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR). OUR INTEREST AND EFFORTS CANNOT SUCCEED, OF COURSE, UNLESS THERE IS COMPARABLE ATTENTION BY RESPONSIBLE LEVELS OF ASEAN. IT
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WOULD BE A MISFORTUNE FOR EXAMPLE, TO AGAIN BE FACED WITH THE ASEAN DELAY WHICH PREVENTED THE WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FROM MEETING UNTIL TEN MONTHS AFTER THE 1977 MANILA MEETING.

4. IN THE CASE OF INDONESIA, FINAL ASSESSMENT OF MEETING WILL DEPEND ON EXTENT TO WHICH DIFFERENCES ON COMMON FUND CAN BE NARROWED OVER COMING WEEKS BY GOOD FAITH EFFORTS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIAN FOCUS ON THAT ASPECT WILL NOT DIVERT THEM FROM COOPERATIVE PROSPECTS IN ENERGY, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE AS WELL AS GIVING CREDENCE TO THE OPIC AND EXIM VISITS IN THEIR ASEAN CONTEXT. THE SECRETARY WILL BE SENDING A LETTER OF WARM APPRECIATION TO WIDJOJO FOR HIS PARTICIPATION. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT FONMIN MOCHTAR MUST NOT BE GIVEN IMPRESSION HE MISSED THE ASEAN-US BOAT. WE THUS HOPE TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION IF HE ATTENDS UNGA. CHRISTOPHER

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